

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with President Vladimir Putin of
Russia (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Putin

Notetakers: David M. Zimov, Laura Hart, and
Ed Chabot

Interpreter: Peter Afanasenko

DATE, TIME May 28, 2004, 7:41 - 7:59 a.m. EDT
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President: Hi, Vladimir. Good day. How are you doing?
(U)

President Putin: Everything is fine, and I am glad to hear you.
(U)

The President: Thank you for taking my call. A couple of
points I want to make. First, I know Condi came to see you and
I want to thank you for your grand hospitality. You made her
feel like a queen. (S)

President Putin: Well, this is the way she looks and this is
what she is. (S)

The President: Very good. Very good English, Vladimir. (U)

President Putin: Thank you. (U)

The President: The second thing is Deputy National Security
Advisor Hadley reported back to me that he had very good
meetings with Ivanov and others in Moscow. It sounds to me like
we have a chance to work closely together to get a good United
Nations Security Council resolution on Iraq; one that receives

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(full sovereignty, allows the Iraqis to run their own affairs and one that says the international community is willing to support the aspirations of the Iraqi people, so long as they want that support. I think this is an important moment, Vladimir, to show that you and I and the Russian and American people can put our past differences behind us and show that we can work together for the common good. And along those lines, we heard your people's worries and concerns, or suggestions, on the resolution and we have taken them into account. My concern is that like any bureaucracy, I give a message to a world leader such as yourself and my people translate it improperly. That is why it is important for you and I to have this dialogue and to communicate to our people, so that the world understands we are working together and not apart. (X)

(Finally, I do believe that when we transfer full sovereignty, and I do mean full sovereignty, that it is the Iraqi people and the Iraqi leaders and Mr. Brahimi of the United Nations, who is deciding shortly on who will assume full responsibility. But they also realize they will need the help of Russia and the United States and the United Nations and other powers to help them get to elections. We are prepared to give that help and I know you are as well. I also want to tell you how sorry I am that some of your contractors were hurt and killed. We have lost people too, but when all is said and done Iraq will be an example and symbol and a model of a prosperous country in a region where terrorism has to be fought. This will serve as a signal to fight off the terrorism that emanates from that part of world. So I want to thank you for your help, and I look forward to seeing you in Europe as well as in Sea Island, Georgia. We will have a wonderful time there, and I think you will find the location to be relaxing. (X)

(President Putin: Thank you, George, I was glad to hear you. And I am looking very much forward to our meeting in Normandy and then in Sea Island, and I believe we will be able to talk in detail on all these matters at hand. We always speak of the Iraq resolution. You must recollect that I put this question to you in the winter when I called you from Siberia, and I told you it was probably worth thinking about a new resolution. But, you should know that it is not just a matter of the bureaucracies we have, and I was talking about it with Condi when she was visiting with us. The thing is, different American agencies are whirling amongst themselves and leaving no room for dialogue. That is why our diplomats and our bureaucrats, when they see no opportunity to discuss a document or a draft and are only given an opportunity to accept a final document that has been prepared

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(previously, feel grumpy and disappointed. But, I assure you we will manage to overcome it. Bureaucratic ambitions are not the most important thing, and they can be overcome. (S)

But, we need to look at the essence, since we understand that this is a joint resolution between the United States and the United Kingdom. Thus, we need to understand the differences in the American and the British approaches. The thing is, for instance, our mutual friend Tony Blair, during his press conference in London, said that after June 30, Iraq will receive full sovereignty, and he said that this was a coordinated position between the United Kingdom and the United States. In his words, he said that the opinion of the Iraqi government will be taken into consideration, but that for security matters or military operations the approval of the Iraqi government will be needed. This needs to be understood properly and we need to see where this is written down. The security matter is definitely of significant importance, but I believe the question of control over the natural resources will be raised. The principal matter is the mandate of multinational forces during the transition period. But, let the diplomats resolve this amongst themselves. (S)

(I would like to tell you the following on my own behalf. I would like to say that I would like your Administration in this complex period to have America to come with decency out of this situation. We will not be blocking anything, and I have already told this to our European partners. We will vote for the resolution if we are satisfied that it will improve the situation. I want this to happen. I believe that we have to show to the Iraqis and everyone involved that we managed to take their interests into account; then we will manage to resolve the situation. But in any case, we will not be putting any obstacles in your way. President Mubarak of Egypt is now visiting me, and he asked me to convey his best wishes to you. During the press conference that just has taken place, I said that you and I planned to talk about Iraq, and that we would work together on this. (S)

(The President: Thank you very much. Listen, Vladimir, I appreciate your friendship, and I just want you to know that my mission is to have the United States and Russia together on this. Thank you for your statements on this. I will tell our bureaucrats, as you will tell your bureaucrats. The important thing to say is that we put our differences behind us on this and work together for the common good. I appreciate your friendship and I know we can work together very well. (S)

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President Putin: Thank you, George. Thank you. I believe exactly that in this spirit we will continue to work on this very important and very significant task. Thank you for this call and please convey my best wishes to your family and to your loved ones. I believe we will do everything necessary to resolve this situation. (S)

The President: Thank you, friend, and I'll see you soon. (U)

President Putin: See you soon, George. (U)

The President: Bye. (U)

President Putin: Bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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